

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY QUESTIONS BUSH ADMINISTRATION ON USE OF FAULTY STUDY REGARDING LNG SAFETY IN PORT OF BOSTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. –Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security and Energy and Commerce Committee, sent letters today to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Norman Mineta, Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) Spencer Abraham and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman, Pat Wood, regarding the November 7, 2003 report by the Boston Herald regarding Liquefied Natural Gas shipments into Boston Harbor.

Rep. Markey said, "It seems that officials in the Bush Administration relied on a faulty study to reassure the people of Everett and other communities surrounding the Boston harbor about the safety consequences of a terrorist attack on a tanker ship delivering hundreds of tons of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). It is absolutely essential that our government's anti-terrorism, safety, and emergency planning be based on accurate information, so that we are doing everything we can to protect these LNG shipments against a terrorist strike on a ship or on the Everett LNG facility."

"The Everett facility stores the highly-flammable LNG, just outside of Boston, and is the only facility of its kind that is located right in the middle of in a densely populated urban area. There is another study that is being completed by the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which clearly conflicts with the first study done by Quest. I hope that the Transportation and Energy Secretaries will promptly respond to the questions I've raised about their efforts to ensure the safety and security of LNG in Boston Harbor."

Rep. Markey's letter includes a number of questions to the Secretaries of Transportation and Energy and the FERC Chairman:

1. How have their Departments or agencies made use of the Quest Study in connection with its responsibilities to ensure the safety of LNG facilities and LNG transportation to Everett?
2. Are they familiar with these concerns that have been raised about this study? If so, do they believe that it should not be used as a basis for policy decisions with respect to LNG safety?
3. Recent press articles further suggests that the NOAA study may be more in line with other scientific studies that have been done on this subject. Are you familiar with the NOAA study? Do you agree or disagree with its conclusions?

Rep. Markey concluded, "Some federal agencies appear to be using this Quest study for purposes that even its authors believe are unwarranted. I want to be sure that federal policies regarding LNG safety are based on sound science, and that's why I'm pressing for answers to these questions."

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